

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 20-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 are allowed. Claims 20-27 stand rejected. Claims 20-27 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 20, 21 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,327) in view of Inou (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,319). Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Inou and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,559,902 to Kusuda et al.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. However, to place the application in condition for allowance, applicants have canceled claims 20-27.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application including claims 1-17 is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early passage of the application to allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael F. Morano', is written over a horizontal line.

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